



# Mid Yell Junior High School

## Information for Nursery Parents 2024 - 2025



## Mid Yell Nursery

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to the Mid Yell Junior High School Nursery. This is an exciting and important time in your child's life and we are very much looking forward to supporting them through this stage in their development.

We provide an exciting and stimulating environment in which your child will learn and have fun.

Our staff are a very dedicated team of people, all of whom bring a range of different skills and experience to the Nursery, to ensure we provide a happy, secure and friendly environment for your child.

Our main aim is to work with parents, carers, guardians and other services to help your child reach their potential. We value the importance of communication and teamwork and these are areas that are continually being adapted and developed, so that we are meeting the needs of all those involved.

## Contact Details

School Name: Mid Yell Junior High School

Tel: 01595745050

Email: [midyell@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:midyell@shetland.gov.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr Mark Lawson

Depute Head Teacher: Mrs Susan Thomson

The Nursery is open Monday to Friday for sessions: **8.45am-3.45pm**. You will have already booked your child's hours through the Early Learning and Childcare team at Hayfield. If you would like to alter your hours, please contact **01595 744000**.

We operate a soft start system but would aim to have all children in by **9.30am**.

If you want to contact the Nursery you can do so by:

- Phoning the school reception and leaving a message
- Phoning the school reception and asking to be put through to the Nursery, if you want to speak directly to a member of staff.
- Contact the school office by e-mail.
- Come into the Nursery and speak directly to a member of staff.
- Message the Yell Nursery Facebook page.

Children must be accompanied to and from Nursery by an adult. If there are any changes to the usual arrangements, please let us know as soon as possible. It is important we know who is collecting your child from the Nursery.

ELC Staff



Mr Mark Lawson  
ELC Manager



Mrs Michelle Coutts  
Principal Teacher



Mrs Ann-Marie Smith  
Senior Practitioner



Mrs Kirsty Bruce  
Practitioner



Mrs Gwen Johnson  
ELC support worker

## **Mission Statement**

Our Nursery is a place where your child will feel valued and loved. Our curriculum is based firmly on play and active learning. It is stimulating, engaging and offers all children challenge and enjoyment. We will provide innovative and creative opportunities for your children to experience high quality play both indoors and outdoors. They will be offered rich, relevant experiences to enhance their play and practise their skills through :-

- Being Active
- Exploring and Investigating
- Playing
- Using Language
- Interacting with others
- Interacting with their environment

Your children will often lead their own learning with staff providing challenge and support, developing their understanding and promoting their sense of curiosity and wonder. They will also learn from those around them as they develop their skills to play, share and help each other.

We will surround your child with space and imaginative, open ended, often natural materials in order to encourage them to think for themselves, explore and be creative. At times, it may look messy but their learning will be fun and engaging!

## **Policies and Procedures**

If you would like to read any of the Nursery/School policies, these are available in the Nursery.

## **Communication**

Information specifically about Nursery is displayed on the noticeboard at the entrance.

We also have a Yell Nursery Facebook page. This is a closed group that you will be invited to join when your child starts Nursery. We post copies of all letters and relevant posters going out from Nursery. We also post photos to share the learning that has been happening each week.

Letters from Nursery will be e-mailed to you.

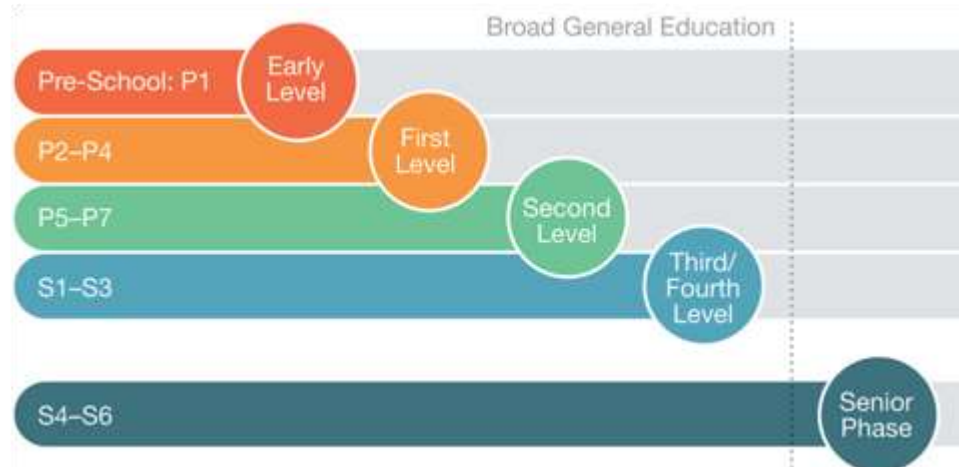
If you would like to talk to a member of staff, at any time, please let us know. The Nursery is very busy at the start and end of the session, but there is always time for a chat. We are happy to receive messages, e-mails and phone calls as well. If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss anything further then this can also be arranged. You can also speak to a member of the management team at any time. Please ask the school reception for this to be arranged.

General information and Care Inspectorate information is also displayed in the porch.

## Curriculum for Excellence

We follow the Curriculum for Excellence. This enables staff to plan activities and provide experiences that promote children's development and learning and help them to become responsible citizens, confident individuals, effective contributors and successful learners.

There are five curriculum levels - Early, First, Second, Third and Fourth - in the **broad general education** (from early years to the end of S3).



This diagram shows the five curriculum levels with progression to the senior phase (S4-S6).

Early level: Pre-school and P1

First level: P2, P3, P4

Second level: P5, P6, P7

Third/Fourth level: S1, S2, S3

Senior phase: S4, S5, S6

**Note: This is a general guide. Learners will progress at their own pace through the curriculum levels - the framework is designed to be flexible to permit careful planning for those with **additional support needs**, including those who have a learning difficulty and those who are particularly **able or talented**.**

We provide a range of active learning experiences during their time in Nursery, which will become the foundations of future learning within the school.

We plan learning on a weekly basis using our floor book. Our planning is child led and is based on their interests, suggestions and needs. We promote the use of 'loose parts' in the setting as it helps "promote curiosity and imagination through play".

The nursery floor book is in our cosy corner – please feel free to look through this at any time. The floor book helps to build a picture of our learning journey throughout the year, with examples of photos, pupil voice and next steps for learning.

If you, or you know of anyone, with a special interest or skill that they would like to share, this is always great to know.

Some useful information on pre-writing skills and ideas for helping develop your child's skills can be found at;

<https://highlandliteracy.com/emerging-literacy/pre-handwriting/>

<https://bumps2bairns.com/preschool-children/>

## **Links with Home**

We have a 'Magical Moments at Home' display in nursery. We would love you to share any photos or things that child has done or achieved and we'll display them for all to see. Photos can be emailed to us and we will print them off. When we get new photos from you we will put the old ones into their 'Learning Story' book.

Ideas from Parents/Carers are welcome too and can be posted on the Facebook page or in the Suggestion Box.

Throughout the school year we will have specific times when we will carry out focused observations on your child. You will be notified of this and will receive a letter to let you know when this is taking place and to ask for your input. You will also receive feedback from your child's focus week which will include some key observations and next steps for learning.

If you have anything that you think would interest everyone at Nursery, please bring it in to show us!

We normally have an event each term where Parents/Carers are invited into Nursery with their child. It may be a coffee morning, Up Helly Aa, stay and play etc. This is a great chance to have a look around Nursery and have an informal chat with staff.

## **Parents' Meetings and Communication**

There are opportunities at the start and end of session to have a chat with Nursery staff, look at Learning Stories etc. We are also happy to talk on the phone or by message or email.

We would normally have an 'open session' twice per year when you are invited to see what happens in Nursery and have the opportunity to discuss suggestions or concerns with Nursery staff. We will also host an information night near the beginning of the academic year and an information night in term 2.

Each child has a Personal Care Plan containing information about them, any medical details etc. They will be reviewed with you every 6 months but please get in touch if you have anything to add between times.

There is usually a whole school Open Evening at the end of the summer term.

## **Attendance**

Although attendance at Nursery is voluntary, we encourage children to attend on a regular basis so that they can gain the most from their allocated place.

It is also helpful to inform staff if you know that your child is not going to be attending on particular days or if they are unwell and unable to attend.

## **Suncream**

Could you please put sun cream on your child before they come to Nursery on sunny days. They will also need a long sleeved top and sun hat. We do not take them outside with bare arms. We will reapply suncream throughout the day. Please provide your own suncream if your child has special requirements.

## **Clothing**

In our Nursery your child will learn through play, therefore it is important they wear clothing and footwear that allows them to move freely and comfortably.

They WILL get messy! Please do not dress them in their best clothes.

We encourage independence in toileting and putting on coats etc. so please keep this in mind when dressing them – tight clothes/coats can make it more difficult for them.

Each child has their own coat peg. Please put a coat with them every day. It is important that you leave a bag of spare clothes on their peg and put in a pair of wellies to keep here, as we will be out in all weather. We provide waterproofs and hats to keep them dry and warm, but you must ensure that they wear warm clothes when the weather is cold.

## **Snack, Lunch and Rest**

A healthy snack is provided in the Nursery. Water, milk, fruit or vegetables are offered daily.

Water is available for the children at all times if they need a drink.

The children will have the opportunity to bake/cook once a week.

The children are encouraged to help set the table, pour their own drinks and use cutlery to cut and spread their food.

Lunches are provided by the school canteen and we operate family service in the nursery, eating together. These lunches are free as they are paid for by the Scottish Government.

There will be an opportunity for your child to rest in a quiet area within nursery during the afternoon. We have crash mats available if they need to lie down.



## **Learning Stories**

Learning Stories are scrapbooks that show a record of work and progression for each child. The children input photos, pictures, mark making and we include our observations to create their own record of their time in nursery. We also talk through their ideas with them and discuss what they would like to learn next. We try to incorporate this into our plans and enable it to happen.

Learning Stories are kept in the Nursery and are available for parents to read at any time. As you know your child better than anyone, we would love your input too. We have speech bubbles for you to write your comments and thoughts, or you could include your child's interests and achievements on. These will then be fixed into your child's book.

These are shared with staff from our associated primaries during the transition period, in order to inform them of the pupil's achievements and development needs. Your child will then get their book home to keep.

## **Library**

Mrs Fraser, our School Librarian, visits the Nursery each week. Each child can borrow a book, but will need to be registered with the Shetland Library, you can do this online at [www.shetland.gov.uk>libraries](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/libraries)

Mrs Fraser leads fortnightly Bookbug sessions at our toddler group.

## **Illness at Nursery**

If your child turns unwell throughout the session, a staff member will phone you to collect them.

If your child has a temperature and are feeling unwell, it is advised that they stay at home.

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, they should remain at home until fully recovered. Children should not attend Nursery for 48hrs after their symptoms have gone.

Please refer to the poster on the Nursery noticeboard 'Guidance on infection control in school and other childcare settings'. If you have any concerns, speak to a member of staff, discuss with our school management team or consult your Doctor.



## **Improvement Priorities 2024 - 25**

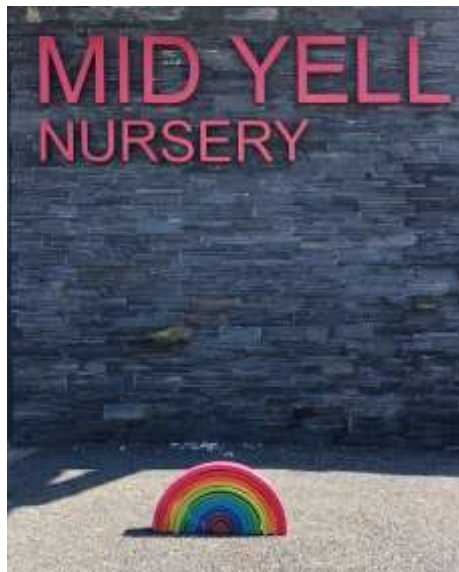
This year our improvement priorities are:

- To build a literacy rich environment through interactions, experiences and spaces
- To develop our outdoor learning environment
- To develop our Health and Wellbeing curriculum across ELC and Primary
- To embed the UNCRC articles within our setting and contribute towards achieving our Rights Respecting Silver Award.

## **Welcome to Mid Yell Early Years!**

We hope that your child enjoys their time at Nursery – making memories and developing new skills that will lay their foundations for future learning. This is a time for them to thrive and learn, make friends and develop as young people.

We are so excited to be a part of their journey!



## **Vision**

At Mid Yell Junior High School we aim to provide a learning community that is broad, aspirational and enjoyable within a safe and inclusive environment.

## **School Motto**

Mid Yell Junior High School, learning at the heart of our **ISLAND**.

## **Values**



## **Inclusive**

- We welcome everyone into our school in a happy, warm and friendly way.
- We value every member of our learning community, celebrating diversity and treating everyone with respect.
- We understand the importance of empathy and value the experiences and emotions of others.

## **Supportive**

- We work together with pupils, parents, staff and partner agencies to provide a positive learning experience.
- We work together as a team to ensure everyone meets their full potential.
- We communicate with others in a fair, positive and honest way.

## **Learning**

- We engage in a broad education that is inspiring, varied and exciting.
- We use our creativity to meet challenges, using our initiative to solve problems.
- We are curious and critical thinkers, using modern approaches and technology to help us succeed.

## **Aspirational**

- We understand the learning journey we are all on and work hard to achieve our full potential.
- We have high expectations for ourselves and strive to succeed in whatever we set out to do.
- We reflect on our actions and experiences and aim to be the best possible version of ourselves.

## **Nurturing**

- We support, nourish and encourage every member of our learning community.
- We feel safe and trusted in school and confident to express our feelings and opinions.
- We participate in activities that promote a positive physical and mental well-being and understand the importance of self-care.

## **Developing**

- We face challenges with a growth mindset and learn from our mistakes.
- We develop the skills for work, learning and life and actively promote positive leaver destinations.
- We actively engage with our wider community and promote and celebrate what makes our island unique.